

Italy

Conferences for cross-government dialogue



TYPE OF TOOL:
Capacity building



MAIN SECTOR:
All sectors



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS:
Co-ordination across levels of government

In a nutshell:



OBJECTIVE: Conferences are the main institutional mechanisms to promote dialogue across the different levels of government in Italy.



Agency in charge
Prime Minister's Office



Levels of government
National and sub-national



Year of implementation:
1998



Current status:
Fully operational

Overview:

The main institutional mechanisms to promote dialogue across the different levels of government in Italy are the so-called "conferences". Firstly, the Conference of State-Regions (inaugurated in 1988) comprises of the Prime Minister (or the Minister of Regional Affairs), who acts as the President of the Conference; the presidents of the regions and other ministers whenever matters related to areas of their competence are discussed. The central government consults the conference regarding all legislative initiatives related to areas of regional interest. Regional governments play a key role on this platform and in the process of institutional innovation, especially relating to the transfer of functions from the centre to the regions and local authorities. The second conference is the Conference of State-Municipalities and other local authorities (created in 1996). It consists of the Prime Minister - as President of the Conference - the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Regional Affairs, the Minister of Treasury, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Public Works, the Minister of Health, the President of the Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI), the President of the Association of the Italian Provinces (UPI) and the President of the Association of Italian Mountain Communities (UNCEM), along with 14 mayors and 6 presidents of provinces. The conference carries out the following two functions: i) co-ordination of the relations between state and local authorities; and ii) study and discussion on issues pertaining to local authorities. Finally, the Unified Conference of State-Regions-Municipalities and other local authorities (in place since 1997) is the institutional body set up to manage relations between the central government, regional and local authorities. It includes all the members of the two above mentioned conferences. It is consulted on activities that involve shared competencies across levels of government. In particular, the Unified Conference advises the central government on financial law and decrees concerning the allocation of personnel and financial resources to regional and local authorities.

REFERENCES:

- OECD (2020), Infrastructure Governance Review of Argentina, OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/f2574b7b-en>